

Spring 2003

NHCSW



New Hampshire Commission on the Status of Women

Message from the Executive Director

It is my great pleasure to re-introduce readers to the newsletter of the New Hampshire Commission on the Status of Women.

"Re-introduce" because, in the mid-1980s, the Commission's newsletter was an important tool in spreading the word about the work of the Commission as well as that of other organizations on behalf of women and girls in the state.

The newsletter was discontinued after only a few years. We know one of the reasons was the expense of printing and postage. To avoid this particular insolvency, we've e-mailed an electronic version of the newsletter to as many readers as possible. If you'd like to be added to the electronic mailing list, please let us

know. We'd very much appreciate it!

Creating a newsletter takes tremendous energy and commitment—resources our present board has in ample supply! I'd like to thank the current members of the Public Relations Committee, Commissioners Jessica Stern, Marie Metoyer, Phyllis Abell, and Mary Gillette, for both resurrecting and reinventing the NHCSW newsletter

This newsletter would not have been possible without the hard work of Colleen Heffernan, the Commission's new Program Assistant. A graduate of the University of Massachusetts, Lowell, Colleen majored in English, minored in Sociology, and spent her senior summer as a participant at the retreat of the Feminist Majority

Foundation. As program assistant, Colleen fills the first paid support staff ever provided to the Commission from the state's general funds. Her mosaic of skills and talents are evident in the pages of this newsletter as well as the other work to which she contributes in the Commission office.

What you'll find in these pages is only a small portion of the programs and projects currently underway at the Commission. We encourage you to visit our website or contact the office for a more comprehensive sense of the Commission's multiple manifestations of its commitment to improve the status of women and girls in our state.

*Terri de Langis, Ph.D.
Executive Director*

Women's History Month

Each March, Women's History Month celebrates the contributions of women and girls to New Hampshire, the nation, and the world.

- Each year, the Commission requests the Governor's proclamation declaring March Women's History Month in New Hampshire. This year's proclamation, signed by

Governor Benson, can be viewed and downloaded at the NHCSW website.

- Girls Inc. of Manchester presented the Commission a women's history quilt at its March meeting. The quilt, hand sewn by the girls at the program, features a diverse array of women achievers. It was displayed in the State House Visitors' Center.

To prepare for next year's Women's History Month, request the Commission's **Celebrate Women**, a directory of women's history materials available through the Commission office. The directory can be viewed and printed at:

www.state.nh.us/csw

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Pay Equity

- This year, Pay Equity Day was celebrated on April 15th, 2003.
- A woman is paid 71.5 cents to a man's dollar.
- The state of NH ranks 30 when compared to the 50 states in America for providing equal pay to women.
- In 1963, when the Equal Pay Act was first passed, women were making 59 cents to a man's dollar.

New Hampshire Women & Girls

The Commission recognizes women for their accomplishments and contributions to the state by sponsoring events to honor New Hampshire women and girls.

The Women's Recognition Award honors a New Hampshire woman who has brought valor and success to herself and to the state. Each year, the recipient of the award is recognized by the Commission at the August meeting of the Governor and Executive Council.



Eileen Phinney, right, with her daughter.

The 2002 recipient, **Eileen Phinney** of Goffstown, is the founder of the Latin American Center in Manchester and

has devoted her energy to providing economic, educational, and cultural opportunities for Hispanic women. She is currently heading an oral history, art and photography project through "Alrededor Nuestra Mesa." Nominations for the Women's Recognition Award are open to the public and should be directed to the Commission office. For 2003 nomination applications, please visit the Commission website or call 271.2660.

The NH High School Women's Athletic/Academic Awards recognizes the athletic and academic achievements of high school women from throughout the state in honor of "Women & Girls in Sports Day" each February. Nominees must participate in two varsity sports while maintain-

ing a B+ grade point average and demonstrating strong community leadership. This year, 536 scholar athletes from 79 schools received the award at a ceremony featuring keynote speaker Olympic gold medalist Tricia Dunn.

"Atta Girl." Periodically, the Commission sends "Atta Girl" letters to recognize individual women as well as specific programs for the positive difference they make to our state. The first "Atta Girl" letters of 2003 were sent to **Dr. Selma Deitch**, founder and director of Child Health Services in Manchester, and **Executive Councilor Ruth Griffin**, who received the Life of Service Award from City Year New Hampshire for her commitment to her community and the state.

40 Years of NHCSW Progress

The New Hampshire Commission on the Status of Women was established by the New Hampshire Legislature in 1969. However, after extensive research, it was discovered that Governor King appointed his own "Governor's Commission on the Status of Women" in 1963.

With that information, the Commission marked its 40th anniversary last October with a night of celebration and reminiscence at the Tuck Library in Concord. Past and present Commissioners were invited and presentations were given by a handful of enthusiastic Commission Chairs: Peg Normandin, 1963; Carol

Pierce, 1970; Susan Colwell, 1979; Georgetown Hippauf, 1991; and Molly Kelly, 2002.

Also present was former Governor Jeanne Shaheen, a driving force on the Commission in the 1980s and recipient of the Commission's first **Lifetime Achievement Award**.

Commissioner Molly Kelly presenting former Governor Jeanne Shaheen with a lifetime achievement award at the Commission's anniversary celebration.



We've Moved!

The Commission recently relocated its offices to Rooms 414-415 State House Annex. Visitors are welcome any time to browse through our resource center, our ever increasing research library, or Commission archives from the past 40 years. For more information about materials and hours call 271-2660.

Upcoming Events

April 28. Susan B. Anthony Award Celebration Dinner, presented annually by the YWCA. This year's recipient is **Maureen Beauregard**, from Families in Transition. For more information or for tickets, call 625-5785.

May 11-17. National Women's Health Week. For information on events, contact the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, 800-852-3345 or 271-4527.

May 24. The Women of the Cornish Colony, Part Two. Opening of the art exhibit featuring the work of the women of the Cornish Colony at the Cornish Colony Gallery and Museum. Information is available at 675-6000.

May 29-30. Ninth Statewide Conference on Domestic and Sexual Violence at Mount Washington Hotel & Resort, Bretton Woods. Presented by the New Hampshire Governor's Com-

mission on Domestic and Sexual Violence and the New Hampshire Attorney General's Office. For more information, contact Mary Thayer, Attorney General's Office, 271-7819; mthayer@doj.state.nh.us.

A Complete NHCSW Calendar of Events is Available @ www.state.nh.us/csw

Commissioner Spotlight

The Commission is comprised of 15 members who are appointed by the Governor and Executive Council. Members are non-salaried and serve a maximum of two, three year terms.

Lucy Hodder, Chair

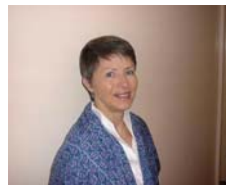
Lucy Hodder, Hopkinton, has served on the Commission since 1998 and has served as Chair since October of 2002. Ms. Hodder currently works as a lawyer at Rath, Young, and Pignatelli. Before coming to New Hampshire in 1993, Ms. Hodder volunteered with New Orleans Catholic Charities counseling victims of domestic violence. This experience inspired her to continue working on behalf of women. The Commission has accomplished many things since Ms. Hodder's appointment. Along



Commission Chair
Lucy Hodder

with other Commissioners, Ms. Hodder initiated a Task Force that provides New Hampshire schools with training and materials regarding Title IX in order to ensure gender equity in education and athletics. When asked if being on the Commission has had a personal impact, Ms. Hodder replied, "I have been personally affected most deeply by witnessing the truly humble, graceful, and persistent New Hampshire women who have for years voluntarily given their time, talents, effort, and aid to help others in need without ever asking to be noticed or thanked. I have been honored to work with some of these women on the Commission, and for that I will be forever changed and grateful."

Barbara Zeckhausen, Secretary



Commission Secretary
Barbara Zeckhausen

Barbara Zeckhausen, Laconia, has served on the Commission since 1997 and as the Secretary since 1998. She is the founder and president of the Women's Fund of New Hampshire, an organization dedicated to raising money for projects and programs that support women and girls throughout the state. During her time as a Commissioner, Ms. Zeckhausen has been instrumental in gathering and organizing the Commission's history—often through the personal stories of past Commissioners—which the Commission hopes to archive as a permanent record of women's contributions to the state. When asked what important contributions the Commission has made during her term, Ms. Zeckhausen replied, "The hiring of an articulate Executive Director, Terri de Langis, has, and will continue to further our voice

CSW Resources

The Commission is continually updating its many resource directories. You can find these directories online or call the office to request a print copy.

Guide to Education and Training for New Hampshire Women

Useful to any woman interested in pursuing postsecondary education, the directory provides information for non-traditional students; resources

for funding; internships, apprenticeships, and training information.

Women in Business Guide

Geared toward women who want to start or expand their own business, the directory contains information on start-up loans and grants, the business plan, and how to register as a woman-owned business. Also offered are helpful links to other organizations.

NEW! Women's Health Links

Find direct links to hundreds of health resources for women as well as contact directly the NH Department of Health and Human Services, the NH Helpline, and the US Office of Women's Health.

**VIEW & DOWNLOAD ALL NHCSW
RESOURCE DIRECTORIES AT
WWW.STATE.NH.US/CSW**

Donations

Tax-deductible donations can be made to the NH Commission on the Status of Women in honor or in memory of a specific woman. A card will be sent to the woman being honored or to her family, and her name will appear in the newsletter along with the name of the donor.

Arlene Taranow's birthday is honored by Jessica Stern.

Alyssa Burgess's Bat Mitzvah is honored by Jessica Stern.

Lola Grunberg is remembered by Jessica Stern.

Dr. Lena Edwards is remembered by her daughter, Marie Metoyer.

Marie Conway is honored by her daughter, Patricia Yosha.

Pat Sadoski's birthday is honored by her sister, Elizabeth Corell.

Ellen Fineberg is honored by Laurie Chandler.

Carol Pierce is honored by
Barbara Zeckhausen.

Molly Kelly is honored by Lucy Hodder.

Shirley Perlo Feigenbaum is remembered by her daughter, Ronna Wise.

Gail Paine is honored by Elizabeth Paine.

Mary Jennie Killam is remembered by her granddaughter, Phyllis Abell.

Marita Kelly is honored by her daughter, Molly Kelly.





New Hampshire Commission on the Status of Women

Room 414, State House Annex

Concord, NH 03301

Tel: 603.271.2660

Fax: 603.271.4032

TDD Access: Relay NH 1.800.735.2964

www.state.nh.us

New Hampshire Commission on the Status of Women

A Commission that works

On behalf of the diverse population
of the state's women

To provide a voice of advocacy
in legislative and public policy issues

To remedy historical and institutional
gender discrimination

To enhance opportunities in education and
training, business and employment

To honor the achievements of
New Hampshire women.

*Strengthening the State,
Empowering New Hampshire Women*

For an electronic subscription, please contact the
Commission office:

603.271.2660

cmsweb@admin.state.nh.us

www.state.nh.us/csw

2003 Legislative Agenda

According to its legislative mandate, one of the Commission's primary duties is to "stimulate and encourage throughout the state the study and revision of the statutes relative to women." The Commission monitors bills introduced to the New Hampshire Legislature that will have an impact on the lives of women and their families.

Some of the bills the Commission is currently monitoring include:

HB 1: State Budget

HB 566: Making an appropriation for state matching grants regarding welfare to work programs

Sponsor: Representative Hager

This bill was found Inexpedient to Legislate and will not be sent to the Senate for a vote.

HB 55: Prohibiting hiring preferences in the university/college system

Sponsor: Representative Harrington

Please visit the Commission website to view testimony given at the public hearing for this bill.

This bill was found Inexpedient to Legislate and will not be sent to the Senate for a vote.

CACR 10: Relating to gender neutral language in the constitution

Sponsor: Representative Norelli

Please visit the Commission website to view testimony given at the public hearing for this bill.

This bill was Retained in Committee for further study.

The Commission encourages you to become part of the legislative process. Hearings are open to the public and dates of hearings can be found on the State of New Hampshire website: www.gencourt.state.nh.us. You can also call your legislator to state your support or opposition for a certain bill. Find your legislator at www.gencourt.state.nh.us/ie/whomyleg.

